Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03001 130850Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 OES-06 EB-08 /057 W

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN PINT KS

SUBJ: PRESIDENT PAK'S COMMENTS AT NAVAL ACADEMY

1. ON APRIL 12, PRESIDENT PAK SPOKE TO THE 31ST GRADUATING CLASS OF KOREA NAVAL ACADEMY IN CHINHAE. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF SEA, A "SECOND NATIONAL TERRITORY," FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AS WELL AS FOR TRADE AND FISHERIES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FIERCE COMPETITION AMONG COSTAL STATES, MANY OF WHICH ARE EXTENDING THEIR TERRITORIAL SEAS AND ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC AREAS TO PROMOTE THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST. STATING THET NORTH KOREA HAS REINFORCED ITS NAVAL POSITIONS ON BOTH THE EAST AND WEST SEAS, PAK STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF A SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POLICY, PREDICTING NORTH WILL CONTINUE TO SEND ARMED SPY SHIPS, AS IT HAS IN PAST. PAK ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO NAVAL OFFICERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS AND RESULTANT SMOOTH PROGRESS IN PROGRAMS TO INCREASE NAVAL STRENGTH.

2. AS IS CUSTOMARY, KOREAN VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS RAN THIS AS THEIR TOP STORY MORNING OF APRIL 13, AND SECOND STROY IN AFTERNOON, WITH KNA GRADUATION, PAK HAS COMPLETED HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANNUAL ATTENDANCE AT ALL THREE MILITARY ACADEMIES' GRADUATION CEREMONIES. HIS SPEECHES AT NAVAL AND AIR ACADEMIES HAVE NOT REPEATED THE SOMEWHAT CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE U.S. NOTED AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY (SEOUL 2585). SNEIDER

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